

## EDUCATION: Expanding Opportunities Through Lifelong Learning

The Quebec City Summit of the Americas Plan of Action recognizes that education is essential to all of our key Summit objectives: strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the development of human potential, sustaining economic growth, and reducing poverty.

In Quebec City, our leaders reaffirmed their commitment, made at the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, to provide universal access to primary education for all children by 2010. They agreed to promote lifelong learning, sought to strengthen education systems throughout the hemisphere, and enhance the performance of teachers by improving their conditions and providing opportunities for their ongoing professional development. Leaders also emphasized the value of science and technology and the ability to access information for learning.



Jamaican children do their homework in their local library. (Jim Pickerell, World Bank Group)

The United States is committed to meeting the Quebec City agenda on education. At that Summit, President Bush announced a \$20 million initiative to start Centers for Excellence in Teacher Training. The U.S. also has provided \$15 million to fund the Child Labor Education Initiative and continues to promote education through hemispheric education ministerials and the Inter-American Education Committee. Through these and other actions, the U.S. is working to improve education across our hemisphere.

### U.S. ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE HEMISPHERE'S AGENDA

- USAID has provided funding for **Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training**, an initiative announced by President Bush at the Quebec Summit to improve reading instruction at early grade levels throughout the hemisphere.
- The U.S. funds the **Child Labor Education Initiative** to improve the accessibility and quality of basic education for children who have been involved in the worst forms of child labor or are at risk of becoming involved.
- The **Civitas Latin America project** assists Latin American educators in implementing effective civic education programs at home. It creates civic education programs for students in the U.S. that help them better understand their own nation through the history and experiences of Latin American nations.